



Curriculum Framework
*Essential Knowledge,
Skills, and Understandings*

History and Social Science Standards of Learning

Commonwealth of Virginia
Board of Education
Richmond, Virginia
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The History and Social Science Standards of Learning Curriculum Framework

The History and Social Science Standards of Learning Curriculum Framework amplifies the History and Social Science Standards of Learning and defines the content knowledge, skills, and understandings that are measured by the Standards of Learning tests. The Curriculum Framework provides additional guidance to school divisions and their teachers as they develop an instructional program appropriate for their students. It assists teachers as they plan their lessons by framing essential questions, identifying essential understandings, defining essential content knowledge, and describing the intellectual skills students need to use. This supplemental framework delineates in greater specificity the minimum content that all teachers should teach and all students should learn. Names of individuals whose study further enriches the standards and clarifies the concepts under investigation are found in this document.

The History and Social Science Standards of Learning do not prescribe the grade level at which the standards must be taught or a scope and sequence within a grade level. The Board of Education recognizes that school divisions will adopt a K–12 instructional sequence that best serves their students. The design of the Standards of Learning assessment program, however, requires that all Virginia school divisions prepare students to demonstrate achievement of the standards for elementary and middle school history and social science by the grade levels tested. The high school end-of-course Standards of Learning tests, for which students may earn verified units of credit, are administered in a locally determined sequence.

The History and Social Science Standards of Learning and the Standards of Learning assessment program form the core of the Virginia Board of Education's efforts to strengthen public education across the commonwealth and to raise the level of academic achievement of all Virginia students.